

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

PCT/IB00/00145

USSN 09/913,314

Attorney Docket Q65608

October 3, 2005

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are all the claims pending in the application.

In the last Office Action Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 2-4 inclusive were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected based claim and Claims 5-17 inclusive were allowed.

In the Final Rejection the Examiner proposed amending the second last paragraph of Claim 1 to read --splitting the hydrocarbon flow so that the flow contacts only one oxygen jet in said combustion chamber--. While the second last paragraph of Claim 1 as filed was not fully correct it is submitted that the Examiner's proposed language for the second last paragraph of Claim 1 is also not fully correct. According to the present invention it is the oxygen that must be distributed within the hydrocarbon gas flow so that each single oxygen jet contacts a corresponding different portion of hydrocarbons. This is clearly seen from Figure 2 wherein a plurality of perforated baffle plates 20 extend in the hollow space 14 near the collectors 15. The collectors 15 are spaced between each pair of perforated baffle plates so that the oxygen which is supplied through the nozzle 16 in the collectors 15 provide equal amounts of oxygen to the hydrocarbons passing through each baffle plate 20. As a result the oxygen is mixed with amounts of hydrocarbons at a constant ratio about the entire perimeter of the mixture zone.

In view of the foregoing explanation it is proposed to delete the second last paragraph of Claim 1 as filed and amend the third last paragraph to read as follows:

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--feeding said gas flow comprising oxygen in said combustion chamber in the form of a plurality of jets generated by corresponding parallel stream tubes having equal velocity within the gas flow comprising hydrocarbons, the jets being spaced from each other--. Thus, the jets of oxygen are spaced within the flow of hydrocarbons to provide a uniform constant ratio of the mixture in the combustion chamber. In view of the foregoing amendment it is submitted that Claim 1 as amended is in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph and it is respectfully requested that Claims 1-17 inclusive be allowed and the application passed to issue forthwith.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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